

2024 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 755 (Substitute for House Bill No. 401 by Representative Zeringue)

BY REPRESENTATIVE ZERINGUE

POLICE/LOCAL: Authorizes the Houma-Terrebonne airport commission to appoint and commission peace officers

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 2:604.3, relative to the Houma-Terrebonne Airport Commission; to authorize
3 the Houma-Terrebonne airport commission to appoint and commission peace
4 officers to enforce laws, rules, and regulations to secure the protection of persons,
5 properties, or interests relating to the commission within the jurisdictional
6 boundaries of the Houma-Terrebonne airport; and to provide for related matters.

7 Notice of intention to introduce this Act has been published
8 as provided by Article III, Section 13 of the Constitution of
9 Louisiana.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 2:604.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

12 §604.3. Houma-Terrebonne airport commission; peace officers; appointment, duties,
13 and powers

14 A. The Houma-Terrebonne airport commission may, in its discretion,
15 appoint and commission peace officers who shall enforce laws, rules, and regulations
16 to secure the protection of persons, properties, or interests relating to the
17 commission, and only within the commission's jurisdiction. Such jurisdiction shall
18 consist of the physical boundaries of the Houma-Terrebonne airport as defined

1 within the Code of Ordinances of the parish of Terrebonne and any immovable
2 properties owned by the commission.

3 B. Peace officers so commissioned and appointed by the commission shall
4 be employees of the commission and meet the following requirements:

5 (1) Be citizens of the state of Louisiana.

6 (2) Have attained the age of twenty-one.

7 (3) Be P.O.S.T. certified in accordance with the Peace Officers Standard and
8 Training law.

9 C. Under the direction and control of the commission, the commission's
10 peace officers shall exercise regular police powers of the state granted to law
11 enforcement officers with respect to criminal and other offenses affecting the
12 protection of persons, properties, or interests, but only as it relates to the
13 commission, the airport, or to the performance of their duties for the commission,
14 and only within the commission's jurisdiction.

15 D. Nothing in this Section shall prevent municipal, parish, or state law
16 enforcement agencies with jurisdiction in Terrebonne Parish from maintaining and
17 exercising their police powers within the commission's jurisdiction. In the event of
18 a serious incident or contested scene, final authority shall be deferred to the police
19 chief or his proxy.

20 E. Except for exigent circumstances, the commission's peace officers shall
21 report and refer to a municipal, parish, or state law enforcement agency any
22 suspected criminal activity within the commission's jurisdiction which may result in
23 felony charges. A municipal, parish, or state law enforcement agency having
24 concurrent jurisdiction with the commission, may, at its discretion, take the lead in
25 or take over any investigation originating with the commission. The commission
26 peace officers shall cooperate with such agency.

1 F. Any persons arrested by the commission's peace officers, and the return
2 of all warrants or processes served by said officers, shall be surrendered or delivered
3 to the appropriate law enforcement agency within the parish of Terrebonne.

4 G. The commission shall adopt rules and regulations for the conduct,
5 management, training, and control of its peace officers, and may, from time to time,
6 amend such rules and regulations in its discretion. The commission shall ensure its
7 peace officers maintain proper and regular law enforcement training.

8 H. Nothing in this Section shall be deemed, nor is it intended, to alter the
9 assessment, collection, and administration of ad valorem tax revenues within the
10 commission's jurisdiction.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 755 Original

2024 Regular Session

Zeringue

Abstract: Authorizes the Houma-Terrebonne airport commission to appoint and commission peace officers and to authorize peace officers to make arrests and surrender those arrested to the appropriate law enforcement agencies.

Proposed law provides authority for the Houma-Terrebonne airport commission to appoint, fix salaries of, and pay its peace officers.

Proposed law specifies that the peace officers be employees of the commission and meet the following requirements: (1) be citizens of La., (2) be at least 21 years of age, and (3) be P.O.S.T. certified.

Proposed law requires the peace officers to exercise regular police powers granted to law enforcement officers.

Proposed law provides that such authority does not deprive any local law enforcement from performing their duties.

Proposed law requires the peace officers to report to municipal, parish, or state law enforcement agencies any criminal activity that could result in felony charges and allows for the municipal, parish, or state law enforcement agencies to take over any investigations.

Proposed law provides for the return of all warrants or processes served by the peace officers to the appropriate law enforcement agency within Terrebonne Parish.

Proposed law allows for the commission to make rules and regulations relative to its peace officers and provides for modification to the rules and regulations.

Proposed law prevents the alteration of the assessment, collection, and administration of ad valorem tax revenues within the commission's jurisdiction.

(Adds R.S. 2:604.3)